GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:432
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
INTER LINKING OF RIVERS
M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to sign any Memorandumof Understanding (MoU) with State Governments for interlinking of rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also held negotiations with neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Bhutan for construction of dams; and

(d) if so, the response of those countries thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.432 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-4-2003 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS.

(a) & (b) With a view to bringing about consensus among States and provideguidance on norms of appraisal and modalities for project funding etc., the Union Government has set up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers on 13-12-2002. The Task Force has been requested to devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States. The Task Force is working for achieving the objective of Interlinking of rivers as per the following Milestone Dates/Time Table.

(i) Preparation of Action Plan-I, giving an outline of thetime 30-04-2003 schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project, etc.

(ii) Preparation of Action Plan-II, giving alternative options for31-07-2003 funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery.

(iii) Meeting with the Chief Ministers to deliberate over the May/June,2003 project and to elicit their cooperation.

(iv) Completion of Feasibility Studies (already in progress). 31-12-2005

(v) Completion of Detailed Project Reports. (Preparation ofDPRs31-12-2006 will start simultaneously since FSs in respect of six river links have already been completed).

(vi) Implementation of the Project (10 years). 31-12-2016

(c) Implementation of water transfer link proposals under Himalayan component of National Perspective require cooperation of Nepal and Bhutan. The Task Force on inter-linking of rivers has also been assigned the task of considering international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

(d) Does not arise.